

MinutesJanuary 8, 2002

9:00 a.m.

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, the following members were present:

Gary Feland, Chairman
Jay Stovall, Vice Chairman
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Matt Brainard, Commissioner
Bob Rowe, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Steve Vick
Utility Division

(10) In the matter of Qwest Communications, Docket No. N2001.12.171; On December 20, 2001, Qwest Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 01-40 ValueChoice Introduction. The proposed new package for residence customers contains the following features: Anonymous Call Rejection, Call Forwarding Variable, Call Waiting or Call Waiting ID, Caller ID - Name & Number, Long Distance Alert, and Three-Way Calling. Customers may, if they desire, also include Call Forwarding Busy Line (Overflow)/Don't Answer, Call Forwarding Busy Line /Don't Answer (Expanded) Message Waiting Indication - Audible, Message Waiting Indication - Visual or Message Waiting Indication - Audible/Visual at no additional charge. The package also includes an individual flat-rate residence line. The package will sell for \$27.95 per month including the features and the 1FR. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the tariff filing. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(11) In the matter of Citizens Communication, Docket No. N2001.12.164; On December 10, 2001, Citizens filed Advice Letter No. MT-01-11. The purpose of this filing is to include the existing Federal Lifeline Telephone Service credit in the Montana Telephone Assistance Program Tariff. This filing does not impact the billing credits that are currently being issued to qualified lifeline customers. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the tariff filing. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(12) In the matter of Central Montana Communications, Inc., Docket No. N2001.12.170; On December 19, 2001, Central Montana requested to modify its tariffs. The changes are Section 4 in accordance with the PSC agreement a credit was established in late 1999 that offset reduced property taxes. The credit began January 1, 2000 and will expire December 31, 2001. The second change is a result of the recent FCC order, Federal Subscriber Line Charges (SLCs) for subscribers of independent local companies and cooperatives will increase. For qualified low-income customers, the FCC directed that support for the federal Lifeline service program will match any increases in the SLCs. The Tier 1 discount for low-income subscribers has been increased accordingly. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the tariff modifications. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MinutesJanuary 8, 2002

9:00 a.m.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator

Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(13) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of December 31, 2001. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

MinutesJanuary 8, 2002

9:30 a.m.

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, the following members were present:

Gary Feland, Chairman
Jay Stovall, Vice Chairman
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Matt Brainard, Commissioner
Bob Rowe, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Joel Tierney

(14) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana-Dakota Utilities, Inc. Therm-Zone Change, Docket No. D2001.11.149; Commissioner Stovall moved to approve Montana-Dakota Utilities' application for the therm-zone change. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Joel Tierney, Steve Vick

(15) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Columbia Heights Water Company service inadequacy, Docket No. D98.10.246; Commissioner Brainard moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$5,000 to contract with a third party engineering firm to monitor and inspect the Columbia Heights Water Company as needed. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 4-1. Commissioners Brainard, Feland, Rowe and Stovall voted aye. Commissioner Anderson dissented.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Leroy Beeby

(16) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Granrud Water transfer to a water district (no docket number at present); Commissioner Rowe moved to request Granrud to file an application for transfer. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Scott Fabel, Robin McHugh

(17) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Clark Fork Telecommunications' application to amend access tariffs, Docket No. D2001.7.98; Commissioner Rowe moved to conclude that staff approval was inappropriate and issue a procedural schedule. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MinutesJanuary 8, 2002

9:30 a.m.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Kate Whitney

(18) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the PSC Complaint against Business Savings Plan aka Norstar, Docket Nos. D2001.7.101 and D2001.12.161; Commissioner Rowe moved to consolidate the Business Savings Plan dockets and to defer action on the reconsideration request pending receipt of additional information requested in the first docket (D2001.7.101). Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Monica Tranel, Mike Lee

(19) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest Communications' application for approval of Section 271 entry – Emerging Services (Line Sharing and Subloop Unbundling), Docket No. D2000.5.70; Commissioner Rowe moved to issue the Final Report. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Monica Tranel, Mike Lee

(20) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest Communications' application for approval of Section 271 entry – Checklist Item 14 (Resale); Commissioner Stovall moved to issue the Final Report for Checklist Item 14 – Resale, along with Items 1 and 11 (approved last week). Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson

(21) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Don Hurley, dba Arrive in Style application to expand passenger authority, Docket No. T-01.22.PCN; Commissioner Anderson moved to affirm the hearings examiner's dismissal of the application. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MinutesJanuary 8, 2002

9:30 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)